

bit of fiber and sinew and muscle. The milk-toast language that would be stricken is on page 18 of the E & R amendments in line 8. The specific words stricken would be, "It is the intent of the Legislature." I would insert in place, "The Legislature directs." Then we would have this statement, "The Legislature directs that a process be developed to ensure communication between the case manager, the parent or parents and the school to address issues relating to school attendance." This particular language is not talking about imposing a sanction, it's not talking about compelling the parents to do anything or managing the children in place of the parents. It is trying to set up a cooperative arrangement between those who profess to have an interest in what is best for the child as relates to educational matters and specifically school attendance. I notice that with all the talk by Senator Vrtiska, Senator Bromm, the three main supporters of this bill, and all the others who are opposed to my amendment, opposed to Senator Schimek's amendment, in talking about the value of school attendance not one time talked about the value of school achievement. So it's enough for them if a child goes to school and sits like a knot on a log. It's enough for them if the child goes to school malnourished. It's enough for them if the child goes to sleep because he or she is tired, or, as Senator Hartnett touched on, it doesn't bother them if the classroom is so sterile that nothing is there to stimulate intellectual activity on the part of the student. All they are looking at is probably the least significant part of the educational process, and that is attendance. We know that some attendance is necessary in order to expose the child to what is being taught, but there are things which go on in the schools far more important than mere attendance. This language that I'm offering regrettably has to be added to the Schimek amendment, if there is a favorable vote. I definitely am going to support the Schimek amendment, whether this is adopted or not. I would want this language included in this section, and I will try again. If an agreement is reached that Senator Schimek's amendment would be adopted, I would then ask if those who support the bill...

SPEAKER WITHEM: One minute.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: ...still would be agreeable to this language wherein the context of talking about the importance of school, since we would take out the hammer, the club or the sanction, we would make the section have significance by requiring the establishment of this three-way communication. We don't say of